

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Experiences of Immigrant Women during the Perinatal Period

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Background: Intimate partner violence (IPV) during the perinatal period is a significant problem for immigrant women and requires targeted interventions that address the underlying risk factors. Several risk factors and help-seeking barriers (e.g., cultural norms, the perinatal period itself, immigration status, life stressors like COVID-19 pandemic, etc.) contribute to the likelihood of these women staying in violent relationships. However, there is limited research evidence about the IPV experiences of immigrant women in Canada. Immigrant women face multiple marginalized identities such as racism, classism and gender discrimination which are further intersected by immigrant status. The experience of IPV further complicates immigrant women's lives and calls for a systematic investigation. Therefore, the proposed study seeks to fill this knowledge gap using a socio-ecological model and intersectional lens as frameworks for understanding the layers of issues that impact IPV.

Methodology: a qualitative study will be implemented in two phases; phase 1: a systematic review of current evidence on IPV, and phase 2: an instrumental case study, guided by Stake's approach to qualitative case study research. Following Research Ethics Board approval, these women will be recruited from Immigrant Women Services Ottawa using purposeful sampling. Data collection methods will be in-depth individual interviews (IDIs) with 25 participants and document reviews. IDIs will be audio-recorded and transcribed verbatim. Notes from Document

Review will be captured through field notes. Thematic analysis as described by Braun and Clark will be used to analyze the data. Trustworthiness of data will be ensured through member-checking, external audit and peer-debriefing.

Anticipated Results: The findings may include possible themes of risk factors on the individual, relationship, community and society levels, and how they interact.

Conclusions: An in-depth understanding of IPV is necessary to develop evidence-informed policy and practice intervention for these women who experience IPV including culturally appropriate perinatal care.